Act, 1995 with a view to providing wider representation to Employees and Employers on the Wage Boards.

Investments by MMTC

39. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) has chalked out any plan to invest huge amounts in infrastructure and trade logistics or joint ventures;

(b) if so, the details thereof, area-wise; and

(c) by when these investments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a)'to (c) MMTC proposes to expand and diversify its involement in Minerals & Ores, Metals, Fertilizers, Gem & Jewellery, Agro and Marine Products and Textiles as well as in development of trade related infrastructue such as port development and setting up of warehouses. No time-frame for these proposed investments can be indicated at this stage.

Coal demanded by power Project at Mangalore in Karnataka

40. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power project at Mangalore in Karnataka has demanded coal for its utilisation;

(b) if so, the annual demand of coal thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to meet the requirement of the power project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) Recently a private company has requested for coal linkage for a 1000 MW captive power plant proposed to be set up at Nandikur near Mangalore in Karnataka for which the demand is for 5 million tonnes of coal per annum. The question of coal linkage may be considered- on receipt of further information and other relevant details from the applicant.

Proposal to Increase Export of Rice

41. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister COMMERCE of be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 5865 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th May, 1995 and to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to increase the export of rice;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that direction; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Measures initiated to enhance export of rice inter-alia include:

(i) Removal of all price and quantity restrictions on the export of both basmati and non-basmati rice;

(ii) Food Corporation of India has also been permitted to export/sell for export 2.0 million MTs of fine and superfine rice from the central pool during 1995-96;

(iii) assistance in organising overseas campaigns and participation in trade fairs/exhibitions;

(iv) providing financial assistance to exporters in improving quality, packing, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys etc.